GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2019
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2015
BETTER PERFORMER STATES IN TOURISM SECTOR
Kumar Dr. Virendra

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where tourism industry has registered better performance and delivered better results during the last one year;

(b) whether the Government has taken any steps to improve the prevailing situation in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a): The top ten States in terms of number of dome- stic tourist visits (in million), during 2013, were Tamil Nadu (244.2), Uttar Pradesh (226.5), Andhra Pradesh (152.1), Karnataka (98.0), Maharashtra (82.7), Madhya Pradesh (63.1), Rajasthan (30.3), Gujarat (27.4), West Bengal (25.5) and Chhattisgarh (22.8).

The top ten States in terms of number of foreign tourist visits (in million) during 2013 were Maha- rashtra (4.16), Tamil Nadu (3.99), Delhi (2.30), Uttar Pradesh (2.05), Rajasthan (1.44), West Bengal (1.25), Kerala (0.86), Bihar (0.77), Karnataka (0.64) and Goa (0.49).

(b) and (c): The steps taken for development and promotion of tourism in the country are as follows:

i. Central Financial Assistance:

Ministry of Tourism operates various schemes through which Central Financial Assistance (CFA) is provided to States/Union Territories (UTs) and other central agencies for overall development of tourism in the country.

ii. Safety of Women Tourists:

The Ministry of Tourism had advised the State Gover- nments/Union Territory Administrations to set up Tourist Police at prominent tourist spots. As a result, the State Governments/UT Administrations of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Maha- rashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha have deployed Tourist Police, in one form or the other.

An advisory has been posted on the Ministry of Tourism website www.incredibleindia.org indi- cating that India remains safe destination for international Tourists including women tourists.

iii. Cleanliness and Hygiene:

To tackle the problem of hygiene and cleanliness at tourist destinations, the Ministry of Tourism has taken the initiative of launching the Campaign Clean India with a vision to ensure an acceptable level of cleanliness and hygiene practices at tourist destinations. This campaign is to be sustained through adoption and involvement of private and public sector stakeholders as a part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

iv. Publicity and Promotion:

The Ministry of Tourism promotes India as a holistic destination, including the various tourism destinations and products of every State/Union Territory of the country, in the domestic and international markets.

As part of its promotional activities, Ministry of Tourism undertakes centralized international media campaigns (prints, electronics and online) under the Incredible India brand-line in key source markets as well as potential markets across the world.

The Ministry has taken up creation, development and maintenance of Walking Tours product which is an online, interactive web product that will help national and international tourists, plan and take walking tours in all major cities in India.

The Ministry of Tourism has signed an agreement with M/s Worth Your Holidays as part of which an automated holiday planner (Tripigator.com) has been linked to the website of the Ministry of Tourism to facilitate the tourists to make itineraries.

The Ministry of Tourism also provides financial assistance to stakeholders for promotion of tourism in the international and domestic markets under the Marketing Development Assistance Scheme.

v. Electronic Travel Authorization:

The Tourist Visa on Arrival (TVoA) enabled with the Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) Scheme was launched on 27.11.2014 for nationals of 43 countries whose sole objective of visiting India is recreation, sight- seeing, short duration me- dical treatment, casual business visit, casual visit to meet friends or relatives etc. for a short stay of 30 days. Earlier the TVoA facility was available for nationals of 12 countries only. The TVoA enabled with ETA will enable the pros- pective visitor to apply for an Indian Visa from his/her home country online without visiting the Indian Mission and also pay the visa fee online. Once approved, the applicant will receive an email authorising him/her to travel to India and he/she can travel with a print out of this authorization. On arrival, the visitor has to present the auth- orisation to the immigration authorities who would then stamp the entry into the country. The entry into India will be allowed within 30 days from the date of approval of ETA and will be valid for 30 days stay in India from the date of arrival in India.

vi. Restriction on gap for re- entry lifted:

The restriction of two-month gap on re-entry of foreign nationals coming to India on Tourist Visa and Tourist Visa on Arrival has been lifted with effect from 4th December, 2012.

vii. Trained Language Speaking Guides:

Selection and Training of Regional Level Tourist Guides, including linguist guides, is an ongoing process and the Ministry conducts the training programmes, through the Indian Institute of Tourism & Travel Management (IITTM), periodically.